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78-04649



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

AUG 4 1998

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Ms. Michelle Irvin
6824 South Dorchester
Chicago, IL 60637

Dear Ms. Irvin:

Thank you for your electronic mail message to President Clinton regarding a fee that has been added to some consumers' telephone bills by carriers to recover their contributions to the universal service support mechanisms. The White House has asked me to respond to your inquiry.

On May 7, 1997, the Commission, as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act), adopted a first Report and Order to implement the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations on universal service. The Commission established universal service support mechanisms that fulfill Congress's goal, as stated in Section 254 of the 1996 Act, of ensuring that affordable, quality telecommunications services are available to all American consumers, including those located in high cost, rural, and insular areas and low income consumers. In addition, these mechanisms implement Congress's mandate to ensure the nation's classrooms' and libraries' access to the vast array of educational resources that are accessible through the telecommunications network. These support systems also will link health care providers located in rural areas to urban medical centers so that patients living in rural America will have access, through the telecommunications network, to the same advanced diagnostic and other medical services that are available in urban communities.

In the 1996 Act, Congress stated that all telecommunications carriers that provide interstate telecommunications services must contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to universal service. The Commission implemented this statutory provision by requiring all telecommunications carriers to contribute to the universal service support mechanisms. Neither Congress, nor the Commission, require carriers to pass this contribution on to their customers. To the contrary, carriers decide how and to what extent they recover their contributions. Carriers, however, may not mislead customers as to how they recover contributions and may only recover an equitable share from any particular customer.

The Commission is monitoring the universal service support mechanisms and their impact on telephone ratepayers. This issue will be carefully reviewed as the support mechanisms are administered.

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11/10/98

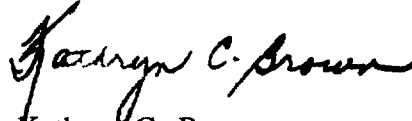
[Handwritten signature]

Ms. Michelle Irvin

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Your e-mail has been placed in the official public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). I appreciate your views on these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathryn C. Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Kathryn C. Brown
Chief

Common Carrier Bureau

20/000 / FCC

IGNORE POLITICAL
COMMENTS

From nobody@www2.whitehouse.gov Tue Jun 2 22:38:44 1998
Date: Tue, 02 Jun 1998 22:37:22 -0400
From: Michelle Irvin <irventerprises@ameritech.com>
Subject: Inbound-White_House_WWW_MAIL => PRESIDENT
Apparently-to: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
To: president@WhiteHouse.GOV
Errors-to: The Postmaster <postmaster@www2.whitehouse.gov>
Reply-to: Michelle Irvin <irventerprises@ameritech.com>
Message-id: <199806030237.WAA01516@www2.whitehouse.gov>

Keywords: WWW-Correspondence; ; Register disagreement with a position; Taxes;
Private Citizen;
Comments: Forwarded from White House WWW
Comments: This message scanned by SCAN version 0.1 jms/960226

[Connection Information]

CLIENT: dyn1-tnt2-24.chicago.il.ameritech.net[199.179.162.24]
BROWSER: Mozilla/3.01C-AIT (Win95; U)
URL: http://www.whitehouse.gov/WH/Mail/html/Mail_President.html

[Sender Information]

PERSONAL-NAME: Michelle Irvin
EMAIL-ADDRESS: irventerprises@ameritech.com
ORGANIZATION:
RELATIONSHIP:
STREET-ADDRESS: 6824 South Dorchester
CITY: Chicago
STATE-PROVINCE: Illinois
ZIP-CODE: 60637
COUNTRY: USA

[Message Information]

PURPOSE: Register disagreement with a position
TOPIC: Taxes
AFFILIATION: Private Citizen
SUBJECT: the "Gore Tax"

[Message]

>From what I understand about the so-called "Gore" tax, I think
it is despicable that congress and Gore supporters are trying
to levy an illegal tax against its citizens. Illegal because
it is a hidden tax, in our already inflated phone bills, that
is to bypass the congress. Hooray for AT&T for standing by its
guns in insisting on letting their customers know about this
tax that is supposedly to help schools and libraries access
the internet. With all the surplus the government have, why

this new tax and why not let us know about it? What are they trying to hide? And what else is being done to us that we don't know about? That's scary!!! After all, didn't that boy who killed his parents, and rigged his house with explosives learn how to do so via the internet? One last question which will probably not be answered, Why this illegal tax when 80% of schools are already on the net without the governments assistance? Since disbursement of funds will be based on the enrollment of the schools free lunch program, what kind of abuse, lying and waste are we opening ourselves up to? I know I'm a few questions past my one last question, but I couldn't help it. Please! Please! Mr. President, don't let this happen. Actually with the right kind of spin, Mr. President, you can divert attention away from the Monica Lewinsky situation, of which I believe you, and come out with even higher approval ratings that you have enjoyed recently.